

competition. Coined the toughest two minutes in the world of sports, these competitions brought out the best in these men, demonstrating their commitment, dedication and hard work. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Poudre Fire Authority for their award, and most importantly for their service and devotion to protecting the community. We can look forward to watching their competition on ESPN at 8:00 Eastern time on January 2.

ON THE DEATH OF ISABEL
HERNÁNDEZ COLLAZO

HON. JOSÉ SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to commemorate Isabel Hernández Callazo, a legendary Puerto Rican designer and manager in the garment industry who died at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx, New York on Wednesday, December 16.

As most members of this body know, I am a native of Puerto Rico who is extremely proud of his origins. Puerto Rico's history and its dynamic, multifaceted cultures are a genuine source of joy to all of her daughters and sons.

Isabel Hernández Callazo was born in Coamo, Puerto Rico and migrated to New York in 1927. She was a hardworking woman and we are all proud of contribution to our society and community.

Mr. Speaker, Isabel Hernández Collazo is the mother of film/television producer and actress, Carla Pinza. To my dear friend Carla, I know how difficult it can be when we no longer have with us the people we love the most. Your mother may not be with you physically, but she remains with you through the love she shared with you throughout the years.

Hernández Collazo was the widow of Ramón Rodríguez de Manatí, Puerto Rico. She will be laid to rest in Saint Raymond's Cemetery, besides her husband's rest.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the American experience is an intermingling of people from different lands, with differing languages and customs. American society has been called "a gorgeous mosaic." Isabel Hernández Collazo's great contribution was to help polish the majestic Puerto Rican tile of that mosaic. And for that, we all should remember and thank her.

FRANK M. FITZGERALD, STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, MICHIGAN,
71ST DISTRICT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize Frank M. Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald faces term limits and is retiring at the end of this year as State Representative in Michigan's 71st District. Frank served the good people of Eaton County with distinction for 6 terms.

Representative Fitzgerald was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in

1986. From 1992 to 1996 he was the Speaker pro tem of the State House, the second ranking House officer.

Frank chaired task forces on drunk driving, illegal drugs, accountability in government, campaign finance, traffic safety, and the Republican Alliance for Safe Neighborhoods to fight crime and make our homes and neighborhoods safer.

He was the sponsor of Michigan's first anti-organized crime law and a measure granting prosecuting attorneys the right to appeal judicial decisions.

One of Representative Fitzgerald's notable accomplishments was his sponsorship of the zero alcohol tolerance law for drivers under the legal drinking age. Recently he had a bill included in legislation to crack down on repeat drunk drivers. He also was a leader to limit youth access to tobacco products.

He worked diligently to protect children from abuse by creating three degrees of "child mistreatment." Frank also voted repeatedly to cut taxes and ease homeowners' property tax burdens with the passage of Proposal A. Fitzgerald helped revise Michigan's Single Business Tax to help businesses save millions of dollars and create more jobs. He supported welfare reforms to encourage personal responsibility, not dependency on the state. He also supported legislation giving school boards and parents more control over the curriculum of their local schools. Representative Fitzgerald worked to establish a legislative ethics commission and a code of conduct for legislators.

Frank is a graduate of Grand Ledge, Michigan Public Schools, the College of William and Mary, and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

He and wife, Ruth, and their two children, Ellen and John, reside in Grand Ledge. The Fitzgerald family is active in Grand Ledge's First Congregational United Church of Christ, the Girl Scouts, and youth athletic and music activities.

Prior to his election, he practiced law and served as an Assistant Prosecuting attorney in Eaton County, Michigan for three years.

For now, this is the end of a long tradition of Fitzgeralds serving the citizens of Michigan as elected representatives. For over 100 years, a Fitzgerald has served in Michigan government. It started with State Representative, John Fitzgerald in the 1890's. His son, Frank D. Fitzgerald, served as Michigan's Secretary of State and went on to be elected Governor of Michigan twice. His son, John W. Fitzgerald, served in the State Senate, on the Court of Appeals, and then as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Representative Frank M. Fitzgerald, whom I am honoring today, is the fourth generation of Fitzgerald's in public service.

I supported Frank Fitzgerald as a candidate for Attorney General of Michigan. I still believe that he might someday make a wonderful Attorney General for our state and I know he will continue to serve the people in any way he can.

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, it is my privilege to honor and recognize Frank Fitzgerald, an outstanding American who served his state with great distinction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
ROBERT MONTGOMERY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated civic servant and fine American—J.R. Montgomery of Tyler, Texas.

Mr. Montgomery was born September 8, 1912, in Waco, to the late Mr. and Mrs. James Robert Montgomery. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1933 with a degree in civil engineering and worked for Houston Lighting and Power Co. from 1933–1940. He then served in the Army during WWII as commander of the 269th Field Artillery. After the war, he worked for Humble Oil & Refining Co. (now Exxon USA), from 1946–1974, in various engineering capacities in the Gulf Coast area, Refugio, Houston and Tyler.

Mr. Montgomery retired in 1975 from Exxon as a senior supervising engineer. He served on the Tyler City Council for seven years and as mayor from 1987 to 1991. He was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and served on the board of East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, United Fund, YMCA membership drives, Boy Scouts of America, Tyler Sister Cities, Friends of the Arts and Tyler Civic Theater. He was also a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, a former vice-president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME and American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. J.R. Montgomery passed away on August 30, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Rosalis, two sons and one grandson. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late J.R. Montgomery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
COLORADO BOYS RANCH

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Colorado Boys Ranch which has been designated the winner of the Samaritan Institute Award for demonstrating "the importance of ethical values through its work." The Boys Ranch, a residential treatment and education center for troubled youth near La Junta, Colorado, has helped boys for the last 40 years. Operated on a 40-acre site, the Boys Ranch provides education, skills, and counseling. Its innovative programs and individual attention have contributed to the Ranch's exceptional success rate. One study indicated 21 months following discharge, 80 percent of graduates were living successfully with their families or on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Boys Ranch deserves Congress' recognition for helping kids gain the education, skills, and perspective needed to succeed. A new outlook on life, embedded in ethics and morals, is essential to gaining a good and fruitful life. Skills and education, while important, will not help a troubled child make a break with the past, unless they

are matched with a sense of right and wrong, a regard for others, self-respect, and a willingness to work hard. Private and public entities which seek to help high-risk youth, should emulate the Boys Ranch. We are proud of this Colorado organization which has touched the lives of our children and communities.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT MISSIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN GULF REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the events of this week, and my heart goes out to the men and women in uniform and their families who are involved in Operation Desert Fox. We want them to know that America is firmly behind them as they face their most difficult challenges.

To bomb another country is no an easy decision for a president. However, I am convinced that President Clinton had no choice but to respond to Saddam Hussein's repeated violations of negotiated agreements by launching the strike.

The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) is responsible for monitoring Iraqi weapons programs and dismantling weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations and the United States have repeatedly demanded that Iraq cooperate with UNSCOM and fully comply with all applicable UN Security Council resolutions. Yet, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly defied the United Nations and refused to keep his promises. He has attempted to restrict UNSCOM's activities and interfere with the efforts of UN weapons inspectors.

This conflict is not with the Iraqi people. It is with Saddam Hussein—a dictator who has repeatedly threatened his neighbors, defied world public opinion, oppressed his own people, violated their basic human rights and used weapons of mass destruction against innocent civilians. I sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people and I am hopeful that this military action will be completed with minimal loss of life.

No matter what difference we may have domestically regarding the President, this is clearly not a time for partisan politics and divisive language. We must stand united behind our troops and assure them that the American people are with them in this tragic time of crisis. I am hopeful that this mission may be completed quickly and without the loss of American lives and that our fighting men and women may be able to return home to their families in time for the holidays.

TRIBUTE TO RAFAEL ALBERTO WAGNER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community. Mr. Wagner will be celebrating his retirement from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in the company of his family and friends today, Friday, December 18, 1998. He worked for Columbia University for 29 years.

Mr. Wagner was born in the Dominican Republic on June 27, 1935. He came to the United States in 1964 and became a U.S. citizen in 1985.

He worked as a shoemaker until 1969 when he joined the Facility Services Department at Columbia University.

Mr. Wagner is married to Carmen Maria Wagner and they have three children, Clara, Wagner-Anderson, David Wagner and Cindy Altgracia Wagner. They have four grandchildren, Jazmin Janay Wagner, David Wagner, Jr., Derek Wagner and Abdiel Rolando Anderson II, and look forward to greeting a fifth in March.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy retirement to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSSELL EUBANK

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to and honor a man dedicated to his community, his family and his church—Mr. Russell Eubank of Canton, Texas.

Mr. Eubank was born June 8, 1918, in Hamilton County to the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Eubank. He grew up in Wills Point, Texas, and was salutatorian of the 1936 graduating class at Wills Point High School. Mr. Eubank received a B.A. degree from North Texas State College. He then finished mortuary school in Dallas before entering the U.S. Navy in 1942. In 1946, at the end of the war, Mr. Eubank returned to Canton to operate the Eubank brothers' businesses. Active in several organizations, in 1968–69 he served as president of both the Texas Cemetery Association and the Texas Association of Life Insurance Officials. He also served on the local school board, city council and did other civic work as well.

Honored for his commitment to the community Mr. Eubank received the Man of the Year Award of Van Zandt County in 1990 and the Canton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award in 1979. A member of the Masonic Lodge No. 141, AF&AM, Mr. Eubank also received the Golden Trowel Award.

Mr. Eubank was also a 50-year member of the Lions Club, a Mason and a Long time member of the First Methodist Church of Canton.

After a long illness, Mr. Eubank passed away at his Canton residence on June 20, 1998. He is survived by his wife, three sons and ten grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this outstanding East Texan—the late Russell Eubank.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MERTENS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine young man in my district. Mr. Justin Mertens, of New Raymer, Colorado, won the national Future Farmers of America, or FFA, award for Diversified Crop Production. Growing up on his family's dry land farm, Justin learned the importance of agriculture at an early age. He started by learning to drive a tractor. Soon, he hopes to earn a degree in diesel mechanics, buy more land and join his family enterprise. Hopefully, he will pass along his skills to future generations of farmers. Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains the backbone of American society. In Colorado, agricultural exports contribute greatly to the economy, feed our families and provide open space and wildlife habitat. I commend Justin for his fine work, and hope that many will follow his example.

WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION FROM JOINT COMMISSION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the notable achievements of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC) in Brooklyn, New York. As a 1998 recipient of an Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the Nation's oldest and largest accrediting body, WHMC has been recognized as a superior health care provider.

This Accreditation with Commendation is a significant achievement that recognizes WHMC's exemplary performance for providing quality care in the borough of Brooklyn. Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission evaluated and accredits almost 11,000 hospitals and home care agencies, and over 7,000 other health care organizations.

As the Representative of the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, I am extremely proud of these dedicated men and women. Under the vigorous leadership of Dominick J. Gio, President and CEO, WHMC is poised to lead the nation into the new millennium. WHMC employees at both the main campus and ambulatory sites go the extra mile on a daily basis in order to provide the best possible health care to its patients. This award highlights the fact that WHMC is a shining star in the world of healthcare.